## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 016907/1147

Applicant:

Hiroki KANNO et al.

Title:

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

Appl. No.:

Unassigned

Filing Date:

09/19/2000

Examiner:

Unassigned

Art Unit:

Unassigned

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action, which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document, which is determined to be a <u>prima facie</u> prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

## **CONCISE EXPLANATION OF** RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 describes a data embedding technique for bilevel images using an error diffusion method. In this method, the threshold for a current point is determined by values of its neighborhood. An English translation of Document A1 is not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). An English language abstract is included on the first page of document A1.

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed document be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnny A. Kumar

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September 19, 2000

Date

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Page 1 of 1

ATTY, DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Form PTO-1449 Unassigned 016907/1147 (MODIFIED) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE APPLICANT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION Hiroki KANNO et al. **GROUP ART UNIT** FILING DATE Unassigned 09/19/2000 (Use several sheets if necessary) **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS FILING DATE** SUB-**DOCUMENT EXAMINER** DATE NAME **CLASS** REF **CLASS** INITIAL NUMBER **APPROPRIATE FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS** TRANSLATION SUB-**DOCUMENT** CLASS COUNTRY DATE REF CLASS NUMBER YES NO OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) KOIDE et al.; "A Data Embedding Method for Bilevel Images Based on the Error Diffusion Method and the Α1 Mean Density Approximation Method"; 1996; pp. 7-14.

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**EXAMINER** 

**DATE CONSIDERED**